AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 3,500 in connection with the research scheme on the root diseases of the cocoanut palm in South India financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. The Government of Travancore prepared a detailed scheme for the investigation of the root diseases of the cocoanut palm and applied to the Imperial Council for a grant from their funds to the extent of Rs. 92,880 spread over a period of three years. The scheme was accepted by the Council with certain modifications suggested by a Technical Committee which examined it. As a first step in the investigation the Council has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 25,500 spread over a period of three years. The Imperial Council has agreed to provide for the salary and travelling allowances of the Plant Pathologist and his staff to be appointed for the purpose and also for contingent expenditure to the extent of Rs. 500. In accordance with this scheme the Travancore Government have to provide the expert laboratory accommodation with the necessary equipment, supply of books and periodicals and also for a contingent expenditure of Rs. 500 for carrying on field experiments in affected gardens.

The reason why this demand was not brought in the regular budget session of the Assembly is that the details of the scheme were finally accepted only in the middle of September last and the Imperial Council provided for funds only very recently.

In view of the fact that the results of the investigations are likely to confer lasting benefit to Travancore and in view of the fact that the lion's share of the financial burden of the investigation is borne by the Imperial Council, I request that the House will be pleased to sanction this demand.

The demand was put to vote and carried.

The grant was made.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The next item of business is the presentation and discussion of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee. Honourable members can speak on the Report generally and the member who has given notice of a resolution can make a speech in support of that resolution also.

RAO BAHADUR A. RENGASVAMI AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, I beg to move that the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Audit and Appropriation Report for 1110 submitted by the Account Officer be taken into consideration.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): Sir, the resolution which I move for the acceptance of this House is as follows:—

> "In order to prevent the unjustifiable transfer of allotments as stated in paragraph 14 of the Report, this Assembly recommends to Government the creation of a P. W. D. Reserve Fund consisting of the unspent budget allotments for any year so that the amounts may be spent for the same work in the subsequent year or years as the case may be."

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